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AHRC Meeting Minutes 12/18/2013

Arlington Human Rights Commission Agenda

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Senior Center – Lower Level Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Robin Varghese, Chair

Minutes

Members Present: Sheri Baron, Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Douglass Davidoff, Ghanda DiFiglia, Sharon Grossman, Nancy Rhoads (Vice Chair), and Robin Varghese (Chair)

Members Absent: Stacy Davison, Mel Goldsipe, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza and Nick Minton

Others Present: Kelly Bruneau (Admin)

- **Citizen's Open Forum:** None.
- **Subcommittee Reports:**

- **School Liaison Program:** S. Grossman stated she would send out an e-mail to all Commissioners next month to obtain an update on School Liaison progress and then report to the Commission as a whole to conserve time at the meetings. R. Varghese reported that he can attend a staff meeting in January. N. Rhoads reported that Stratton has not returned her calls and so she will try e-mail. S. Grossman reported that she was stood up for an appointment at the high school. M. Briggett stated she e-mailed Pierce today but had not heard back. G. DiFiglia stated she e-mailed and called Thompson but had not heard back. S. Baron has not yet contacted Hardy but will try to get in touch by Christmas. S. Grossman stated she would e-mail Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent directly to encourage her to have her staff respond to Commissioners. R. Varghese stated he would like to invite the METCO Director to a meeting soon but was trying to balance this invite with an invite to the Police Chief.
- **20th Anniversary/10 year anniversary of Marriage Equality/Bill Shea Every Day Hero Award:** S. Baron reported that the subcommittee met and discussed what to call the event, where to hold the event, food and flower purchases, music, potential speakers for the event including two of Bill's children and others that were key in both Bill and Nancy's lives and a couple that was married on the first day same sex marriage was legalized. C. Carney raised a concern about the Commission celebrating its self. S. Baron will find out the cost of the Selectmen's Hearing Room at Town Hall and e-mail all Commissioners before the next meeting. D. Davidoff suggested that the event be publicized locally and agreed to coordinate publication if another Commissioner writes about Nancy and Bill since he is new to the Commission.
- **Dialogues Schedule:**
 - **Rescue in the Philippines :** C. Carney reported that she contacted Arlington Community Education but it is too late to include the dialogue in the standard spring brochure although it could be included in the late spring brochure. She stated that the high school media room is expensive to rent but the high school media room is free and can fit about 100 people. Since the Commission has a lot going on in the spring, it was more appealing to wait and show the film in the fall at the International Film Festival. C. Carney will find

out the cost for the international film festival and when the funds are needed to allow the Commission to budget appropriately.

- **Miss Representation:** M. Briggett reported that Miss Representation will be shown in early April. She will forward the exact date once she has confirmed. K. Bruneau will check her e-mail to verify if the educational materials purchased with the film were sent. Miss Representation is paid in full.
 - **South Sudanese Documentary:** N. Rhoads suggested the possibility of showing a documentary about the South Sudanese population. C. Carney will follow up with a contact regarding partnering to show the film.
 - **Rapid Response:** N. Rhoads reported that the Rapid Response subcommittee is meeting on January 6, 2014.
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- **Brochure Update and Plans:** N. Rhoads reported that she and M. Goldsipe will connect regarding the brochure. N. Rhoads has a compact disk file to give to M. Goldsipe.
 - **Hopi Teacher to Run Boston Marathon:** M. Briggett stated that the first Hopi woman will be running the 2014 Boston Marathon. The runner and her family of 5-6 adults are hoping to speak at a school about their culture and/or prepare a traditional meal in exchange for housing and assistance navigating the city. The Commission brainstormed ideas for publicizing the Hopi family's needs. M. Briggett will find out the exact dates of the family's visit. If there is time in their schedule, R. Varghese will talk with the schools about the possibility of the family speaking.
 - **Support for MLK Day Event:** R. Varghese stated he reached out to a contact at the Martin Luther King Day event but has not heard back regarding what the Commission could purchase to support the event. N. Rhoads suggested that R. Varghese contact the Comptroller to find out if the Commission can give a check in exchange for a letter stating what the money will be used for. R. Varghese will follow up.
 - **Finances review**
 - **Review Last Year:** R. Varghese stated that he contacted Christine Bongiorno, Director of Health & Human Services regarding attending the December meeting to discuss the budget but she was unable to attend. R. Varghese will e-mail Christine Bongiorno again to confirm that the money left over in the budget for fiscal year 2012 went back to the town.
 - **Budget Update for this Year:** None.
 - **November Minutes:** N. Rhoads moved to accept the November minutes as written. C. Carney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
 - **Robert McKersie Author Reading, Chicago 1960's Civil Rights Movement:** D. Davidoff stated there was recently a large turnout of about 75 people at the high school media center for the Robert McKersie author reading. He stated there was a spirited discussion at the event.
 - **Administrative Items:**
 - **Monthly Update:** The Annual Report is due January 2, 2014. Commissioners can expect an e-mail from K. Bruneau and/or R. Varghese requesting that information for the annual report be forwarded to K. Bruneau.
 - **Review Rapid Response List & Mailing/ Contact List Review:** K. Bruneau has been working on updating the Rapid Response list, Mailing/ E-mail List and AHRC Contact List. N. Rhoads reminded Commissioners that they should use their ArlingtonHumanRights.Org e-mail address for Commission business since all e-mails related to the Commission are public record and therefore should never be deleted and could be subpoenaed.
 - **Incidents and Complaints:** R. Varghese stated that an incident occurred on December 9, 2013 at Brattle Place. A swastika and the letters "H," "O," and "E" were written in the snow on a resident's car. R. Varghese will reach out to the resident.
 - **New chair for 2014:** N. Rhoads moved to nominate C. Carney for 2014 Chair. M. Briggett seconded the motion. All were in favor and C. Carney accepted the motion. N. Rhoads moved to nominate R. Varghese to be Vice-Chair for

2014. M. Briggett seconded the nomination. All were in favor and R. Varghese accepted the nomination.

- **Update on Books for Bill, Library Dedication:** C. Carney stated the books would be presented at the 20th Anniversary Celebration event.
- **Book Donation in Honor of Nancy Sweeney:** C. Carney reported that she continued to play phone tag with the Robbins Library contact. Since the library does not want a book donation and the Commission is not able to provide a monetary donation, R. Varghese will contact the Comptroller and find out if the Commission can give a check to the Robbins Library in exchange for a letter stating what the money would be used for. R. Varghese will also look up the exact amount the Commission voted to set aside for the books.
- **Website/ Facebook Update:** R. Varghese posted the meeting dates for 2014, added D. Davidoff to the list of Commissioners, posted information about the Martin Luther King Day event and updated Commissioner term dates as needed on the website. The dialogues will be posted on the website once dates are solidified. C. Carney will post the Commission meeting dates one week prior on the Facebook page. Commissioners should let R. Varghese know if anything else should be added to the website.
- **Outstanding Deliverables:**
 - **FAQ's:** C. Carney will send R. Varghese the FAQ's when ready to post on website.
 - **20th Anniversary Highlights of Commission Activities:** None.

S. Grossman moved to adjourn meeting at 9:55 PM. D. Davidoff seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Submitted by:
Kelly Bruneau
Administrative Assistant